Hailsham speedwriting system: key

1. It is partly a phonetic system, relying on context. Thus θ can mean ‘further’ or ‘father’, sentences apart (3 July 1975 diary). In the same document ‘ret’ means ‘retire’ and ‘retd’ means ‘returned’ (ditto).
2. Endings in “tion” sometimes abbreviated phonetically with a closing ‘j’: eg, “nvgj” for “navigation”. [This is standard speedwriting in fact.]
3. Generally abbreviation rather than phonetics the basis of the system, however.
4. Sometimes a single character is saved: eg, ‘gt’ for ‘get’. Some very limited reductions: ‘unhelp’ for example.
5. Vowels are dropped where possible within a word, except at the beginning.
6. The use of Greek letters is surely a personal addition to the original speedwriting system? [Yes.]
7. The purpose of using the system appears to have been secrecy as much as speed.
8. A radical abbreviation is sometimes practised in the midst of less radical ones, probably for additional secrecy.
9. Sometimes the same word is abbreviated in different ways, e.g. ‘authority’ can be “authy” or “auθy”.

Terms used as in Speedwriting dictionary are in red

abt  about [12 Nov 74 diary]
acc  according [11 De 75 diary]
agst against [11 De 75 diary]
aps  appears [70-71 diary (4)]
arg  argue [11 De 75 diary]
authy  authority [11 De 75 diary]
auθy  authority [29 Jul 75 diary]
b  but [29 Jul 75 diary]
b  be [11 De 75 diary]
bft  benefit [11 De 75 diary]
cd  could [11 De 75 diary]
ddlk  deadlock [70-71 diary (4)]
diffy  difficulty [11 De 75 diary]
δθ  death [3 Jul 75 diary]
dw  down [1 Oct 76 diary]
e  he [1 Oct 76 diary]
emf  emergency [11 De 75 diary]
estb  established [11 De 75 diary]
f  for [11 De 75 diary]
θs  these  [traffic statement]
θos  those  [traffic statement]
u  you  [29 Jul 75 diary]
unhelpf  unhelpful  [11 De 75 diary]
unsucc  unsuccessful  [3 Jul 75 diary]
v
vo  vote  [1 Oct 76 diary]
vs?  ?vested  [11 De 75 diary]
w  ?with  [29 Jul 75 diary]
w  will  [11 De 75 diary]
wa  what  [All Souls election, 1/1/12 (513)]
wd  would  [12 Nov 74 diary]
wh:  which  [11 De 75 diary]
wk  work  [29 Jul 75 diary]
wξ  ?wish  [29 Jul 75 diary]
xc?  ?expect(ed)  [70-71 diary (4)]
y  ?yes  [29 Jul 75 diary]
y  year  [29 Jul 75 diary]
ys  years  [29 Jul 75 diary]